(b) whether Government have agreed to this demand in principle; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) to (c) The Government has received some representations in this regard and a decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

Increase in coal demand

419. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Vision Coal — 2025, in another 20 years the demand of coal would increase by 350 per cent *i.e.* 1,200 million tonnes from the present 370 million tonnes;

(b) whether Coal India Limited has any action plan to expand its operations abroad by acquiring coal fields to ensure continuous supply of quality coal to meet the domestic demand;

(c) the other plans does it have to increase its production; and

(d) the new technological methods that are being adopted to reduce ash content in coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. As per projections made in the Coal Vision, the coal demand for the year 2024-25 at the rate of 8% Gross Domestic Product (GDP), would be around 1267 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to form a subsidiary 'Coal Videsh'. CIL envisages to avail of mining rights in foreign countries for deposits of low ash thermal coal and coking coal.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase the coal mining/ production in India:

(1) 100 mining projects have been identified for implementation during Tenth Plan.

(2) Improvement in equipment utilization, mechanization/ modernization of existing and new mines, timely implementation of projects and increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.

Further, Government has allotted 68 captive coal blocks to different consumers for captive use.

(e) CIL has adopted a new technology *i.e.* selective mining for extraction of coal from opencast mines by deploying surface miners, which helps in the quality of coal by segregating shale/stones. Further, new technological method for coal washing such as Column Flotation and Spiral Concentrator are planned to be installed at CCL and BCCL respectively.

India's role in Iraq rebuilding

420. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of India's role in Iraq's rebuilding; and

(b) the benefits to accrue to India in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In response to UN Secretary-General's appeal in 2003, India has committed US $20 million for assistance to the Iraqi people for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Government of India has also contributed an amount of US $ 10 million to the two Iraq Trust Funds being coordinated by the UN and World Bank respectively for reconstruction of Iraq. India has offered assistance to Iraq in the reconstruction world through capacity-building and development of its human resources by providing training in India to Iraqi officials in wide ranging areas. As part of humanitarian assistance, Government of India has supplied milk powder to Iraqi children and is providing fortified biscuits to Iraqi school children in cooperation with the UN World Food Programme.

(b) India's relations with Iraq will be further strengthened to mutual benefit.

Conditions on India for nuclear deals

421. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns visited New Delhi in January, 2006 for discussions with the Foreign Secretary on the implementation of the Indo-US nuclear deal of July, 2005;